

Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 1-11, and added new claims 12-20. Of the pending claims, claims 1 and 12 are the only independent claims.

Support for new claim 12 can be found, for example, in FIGS. 1-2, and in the specification at paragraphs [0024], ll. 1-6, [0025], ll. 1-7, and [0030-0031] of the published application. Support for new claim 13 can be found, for example, in FIG. 3 and in the specification at paragraph [0028] of the published application. Support for new claim 14 can be found, for example, in the specification at paragraph [0029], ll. 5-11 of the published application. Support for new claim 15 can be found, for example, in the specification at paragraph [0028], ll. 1-3 of the published application. Support for new claims 16-17 can be found, for example, in the specification at paragraph [0024], ll. 7-10 of the published application. Support for new claim 18 can be found, for example, in FIG. 2 and in the specification at paragraph [0025], ll. 7-11 of the published application. Support for new claim 19 can be found, for example, in FIG. 2 and in the specification at paragraph [0033] of the published application. Support for new claim 20 can be found, for example, in the specification at paragraph [0026], ll. 9-13 of the published application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action mailed June 10, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-8, and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,169,497 issued to Robert ("Robert"). The Applicant believes that the claimed invention is patentable over Robert and has amended independent claim 1 and written new independent claim 12 to more clearly define thereover.

1. The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention, as recited in amended independent claim 1 and newly added independent claim 12, is a communication system for use with a vehicle. As recited in representative amended independent claim 1, the system comprises a first and second communication unit. The first communication unit resides in a vehicle and interfaces with a vehicle computer such that the first unit may read and write information to the vehicle computer. The second unit is portable and communicates with the first unit over a bi-directional wireless communication link. Accordingly, the second communication unit may access information stored within the vehicle computer.

The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 and written new independent claim 12 to recite that the first communication unit interfaces with at least one vehicle computer such that information residing in the vehicle computer may be accessed and modified by the second communication unit. Support for these amendments can be found, for example, in the specification at paragraphs [0024], [0028], ll. 1-8, and [0030-0031] of the published application, and the previously presented claim 8.

2. Robert

Robert generally discloses a passive remote tracking system 10 for a vehicle 16. Such passive remote tracking systems provide information regarding the position of the vehicle. Robert discloses a portable remote control 20 which is employed to have the vehicle 16 initiate the tracking process by transmitting an initiation signal 30 to tracking stations 12. (See FIG. 1; col. 4, lines 12-28; and col. 7, line 62 through col. 8, line 22). Tracking stations 12 are in communication with satellites to receive information from satellites 23. Based on this position information received from satellites 23, tracking stations 12 communicate with vehicle 16 to advise the vehicle of its position.

3. The Claimed Invention Compared to Robert

The claimed invention differs from Robert in that in the claimed invention the first communication unit interfaces with a vehicle computer such that information contained within the vehicle computer is made accessible to the second communication unit. In contrast, Robert discloses a mobile tracking and positioning system that uses computers and global positioning satellites to determine, by triangulation, the origin of a positioning signal transmitted by a unit placed on a target. Further, step 6 of the method disclosed in Robert by FIG. 4 teaches that position and direction information, not vehicle computer data, is transmitted between the communication units. As such, Robert does not teach or suggest a communication unit that interfaces with a vehicle computer such that the information contained within the vehicle computer may be accessed by a remote unit.

Accordingly, the Applicant believes that amended independent claim 1 and newly independent claim 12 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Robert. Claims 2-11 depend from amended independent claim 1 and include the limitations therein. Moreover, these claims recite further limitations, in addition to the limitations of amended independent claim 1, which render these claims additionally patentable. In particular, the Applicant has amended claims 7-8 to further define the claimed invention over Robert. Support for the amendments to claims 7-8 can be found, for example, in the specification at paragraph [0024], ll. 8-10, and paragraph [0024], ll. 7-8, of the published application, respectively. New claims 13-20 depend from new independent claim 12 and contain the limitations therein. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdraw of the rejection to claims 1-5, 7-8, and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robert in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,631,271 issued to Logan. The Examiner rejected

claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robert in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,606,307 issued to Cook.

Claims 6 and 9 depend from amended independent claim 1. As such, the Applicant contends that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons that amended independent claim 1 is patentable. Moreover, these claims recite further limitations, in addition to the limitations of amended independent claim 1, which render these claims additionally patentable. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdraw of the rejection to claims 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

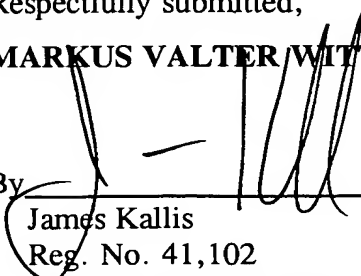
CONCLUSION

In summary, claims 1-11, as amended, and new claims 12-20 meet the substantive requirements for patentability. The case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested.

If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a conference is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,
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